

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-4 are pending.

The Examiner objected to Claims 3-4 as containing an informality regarding the phrase two or more steps. This expression, appearing in original Claims 2-4, has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, and now reads "two or more stepwise movements."

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Boutaghou et al. U.S. 5,633,767 (Boutaghou '767). The Applicants traverse as follows.

Boutaghou '767 is directed to an adaptive load/unload damage estimation and compensation scheme in which a recording medium is provided with data tracks in a landing region, whereby errors during the reading of the data tracks are used to predict the future likelihood of catastrophic failure, so as to permit appropriate measures to be taken before the occurrence of such catastrophic failures. On the other hand, the invention as set forth in the claims includes steps of setting a parameter for driving an actuator in stepwise movements of a slider following a shape of a holding member, starting a process for holding the slider on the holding

member while reading information from the magnetic disk medium during unloading, and causing the magnetic head to read the information from the magnetic disk medium while following the holding member during loading. In other words, information is read from the magnetic disk medium while the magnetic head follows the holding member, during both the loading and unloading processes.

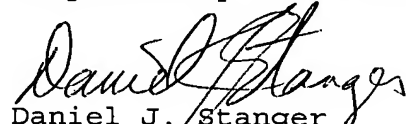
Boutaghou's scheme is entirely directed to detecting read errors broadly during the loading process. However, no information is read during the unloading process. Furthermore, during the loading process, Boutaghou only teaches that the data is read as the head approaches the medium. There is no teaching that the information is read while the head is following or held on the holding member.

According to these distinctions from Boutaghou, the actuator and magnetic head/slider of the present invention, moving along the holding member (e.g., ramp) during loading and unloading is prevented from slowing down, temporarily stopping, or otherwise undergoing a change in speed due to external forces acting between the ramp and head/slider support members, which vary from one magnetic disk drive to another. Therefore, the present invention is patentably distinguishable from Boutaghou '767, whether taken

individually or in combination with any other reference of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel J. Stanger
Registration No. 32,846
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
Date: August 6, 2004

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